

## U.S., Iran hold 'secret talks'

BEIRUT (R) — The United States and Iran have held secret talks on releasing eight American hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, a senior Muslim militia official told Reuters Wednesday. The official, who asked not to be identified, said senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and an American negotiator met in New York in December. A second round of talks took place in Geneva in January. He also said British envoy visited Tehran recently to seek the release of four British hostages who are among 17 Westerners held in Lebanon. He added that no agreement was expected between London and Tehran before the row was settled over British author Salman Rushdie and Iran's death order against him for allegedly blasphemy Islam. Both the United States and Iran discussed the possibility of normalising relations and freeing the American hostages, eight of 17 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Volume 15 Number 4329

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورдан تايمز ميديا سافنر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية (الرأي)

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 1-2, 1990, SHA'BAN 4-5, 1410

## Beirut clerics propose peace plan

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival Christian forces dueled with mortars and machine-guns in east Beirut Wednesday as their religious leaders demanded an immediate ceasefire in the one-month showdown. Police did not report any casualties from the inter-factional exchange that covered Beirut's southern edge, controlled by army General Michel Aoun and the city's three-hour meeting by spiritual leaders of various Christian sects called for a reciprocal ceasefire, the withdrawal of the rival forces to their garrisons, reopening of all roads, ending the virulent propaganda campaign and returning life to normal. The conferees, who met at the seat of Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir in Bcharre, north of Beirut, called for the initiation of a political dialogue between Aoun and Geagea and the implementation of the security arrangements. Geagea vowed in a statement to comply with the clerics' peace plan and said he hoped Aoun would do the same. "We hope that a similar decision will be taken by the other side and that the spiritual leaders will directly supervise the conduct of the plan," Geagea said. There was no immediate reaction from Aoun.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Regent meets sports officials, team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday met with executive committee members of the Tae-Kwon-Do and Karate Federation and listened to their views and urged them to exert further efforts in order to develop these games and further promote their standard. The Crown Prince also met with the Jordan national team that won the Arab Cooperation Council marathon championship held in Baghdad and congratulated the winners.

## U.N. revives Gulf peace bid

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is to contact Iran and Iraq to propose a two-month session of direct talks aimed at clearing the way for a permanent peace settlement between them. Perez de Cuellar outlined his proposal for another round of Iran-Iraq talks during private Security Council consultations on Tuesday, but refused to provide details or a timetable. The 15-member Security Council issued a statement expressing support for Perez de Cuellar's efforts to restart the negotiations that bogged down in August 1988 soon after they began in Geneva. Perez de Cuellar and his special envoy, Swedish Ambassador Jan K. Eliasson, have been unsuccessful in efforts to break the deadlock.

## Gandhi party heads for defeat

NEW DELHI (R) — Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party appeared headed for a crushing defeat Wednesday in state elections marred by vote-rigging and widespread violence that killed nearly 100 people (see page 8). Votes were cast on Tuesday for eight of the country's 25 state assemblies. Early voting trends showed Gandhi's party, which controlled all eight states, was being routed.

## Managua decrees ceasefire

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaragua's Sandinista government ordered an immediate ceasefire in the war with the U.S.-backed contras Wednesday, adding to the pressure to disband the rebel forces. "The president of the republic has decided to order from today a unilateral halt to offensive military operations with the aim that the counter-revolutionary forces demobilise immediately," said a statement from President Daniel Ortega's office broadcast on pro-government Voice of Nicaragua radio. Ortega, whose leftist Sandinistas were crushed in Sunday's polls, has made clear that disbanding contra forces based in Honduras is a key condition for a peaceful transition to the new government on April 25 (see page 8).

## Israel devalues shekel

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli shekel will be devalued by around six per cent, effective on March 1, to boost the economy and curb inflation. Finance Minister Shimon Peres announced Wednesday. He said that at the start of business on Friday the shekel would be pegged at 2.188 per cent unit of a dollar-dominated basket of currencies. Its exchange rate against individual currencies would be fixed later in the day, he said. Israel's last devaluation was in June 1989, when the shekel was devalued by 4.2 per cent to 2.314 to the dollar.

## Washington mayor pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON (R) — The mayor of Washington, Marion Barry, pleaded not guilty in federal court here to eight drug-related criminal charges. U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Jackson set June 4 for a trial date after Barry's lawyer R. Kenneth Mundt entered the plea for the mayor to five charges of cocaine use in 1988 and 1989 and three charges of lying to a federal grand jury that he never used drugs.

## King arrives in Abu Dhabi

# Jordan and Qatar call for Arab summit on Soviet immigration

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Wednesday as part of a Gulf tour to discuss bilateral relations, the latest developments in the region and means to arrive at a unified Arab response to the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Just before the King arrived from Qatar, Moscow's ambassador to the UAE assured Arabs the Soviet Union would work to prevent the Jewish emigration from settling in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A Qatari official said King Hussein and Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani had called Wednesday for an urgent Arab summit on the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel.

The Qatari News Agency (QNA) quoted the official as saying they wanted the meeting to adopt a "serious and effective position that responds to the present dangers."

Sheikh Khalifa told King Hussein that the leaders of France and Britain support the Arab stand against the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, the news agency

said. The Qatari official did not give a date for the summit which

would be the first meeting of the heads of state of the 22-member Arab League since last August.

The Qatari News Agency said King Hussein and Sheikh Khalifa accused Israel of planning to settle Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"This illegal act is bound to seriously complicate efforts to reach a comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Middle East issue and represents an aggression on Palestinian rights and a threat to national Arab security," the agency, received in Cyprus, quoted the official as saying.

Israel expects up to half a million Soviet Jews to arrive in the country in the next five years.

The King, who is accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shakher, Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, was received upon arrival here by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan and senior officials.

Upon landing in Paris the Jordanian crew were met by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Jordanian Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh and His Majesty King Hussein's advisor on Tourism and Civil Aviation Affairs Ali

Ghanda.

Immediately after the announcement of the result of the race, His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to the craft's crew congratulating them on their success. The King said that he was deeply proud of the achievement and expressed appreciation for efforts made by the organisers and those who provided assistance to the crew, including RJ staff, the Arab Wings and the Royal Falcons.

The King said that the world

would remember that Jordan took part in this race for the first time and achieved a great result.

The flight from Amman to Paris was described by Captain Eric Ledger as hectic since the craft encountered high winds and storms, specially over Italy and Switzerland.

Ledger described the climatic



Saqr Al Urdun and its crew

## Jordanian entry wins air race

PARIS (Agencies) — Saqr Al Urdun (Falcon of Jordan) the Royal Jordanian aircraft, has won the Malaysia International Air Race 1990. Its crew will receive a cash prize of 100,000 French francs at a ceremony to be held in Paris.

The race from Paris to Malaysia and back to the French capital began last month and was conducted in stages, with Saqr Al Urdun nearly always in the lead. The Amman-Paris stage which was launched Tuesday involved participating crews and craft from Jordan and 10 other countries.

Upon landing in Paris the

Jordanian crew were met by

Her Majesty Queen Noor, Royal Jordanian Director General Husam Abu Ghazaleh and His Majesty King Hus-

sein's advisor on Tourism and Civil Aviation Affairs Ali

Ghanda.

Immediately after the

announcement of the result of

the race, His Majesty King

Hussein sent a cable to the

craft's crew congratulating

them on their success. The

King said that he was deeply

proud of the achievement and

expressed appreciation for

efforts made by the organisers

and those who provided assis-

tance to the crew, including RJ

staff, the Arab Wings and the

Royal Falcons.

The King said that the world

would remember that Jordan

took part in this race for the

first time and achieved a great

result.

The flight from Amman to

Paris was described by Cap-

tain Eric Ledger as hectic since

the craft encountered high

winds and storms, specially

over Italy and Switzerland.

Ledger described the climatic

condition in Europe at the time

as a real nightmare, forcing the

plane to land in Geneva for

some time for refuelling. De-

spite the delays, he said, Saqr

Al Urdun achieved victory.

Upon leaving Amman for Paris

Saqr Al Urdun was in the lead

by two hours and 30 minutes.

When Saqr Al Urdun stopped

in Amman, its crew were

visited by King Hussein who

also met with members of an

international commission

which organised the race. While

in Jordan the crews of other

aircraft taking part in the race

were taken on a tourist trip to

archaeological and tourist

sites.

A press statement released

in Amman Wednesday said

that a press conference will be

held Friday at Amman airport

at which the crew of the win-

ning craft will discuss the va-

rious stages of the race.

## House panel completes Yarmouk investigations

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A committee of the Lower House of Parliament has completed its investigations into student clashes which occurred at Yarmouk University late last year and will present its report to the full House in 10 days, according to the committee's chairman, Fares Al Nabulusi.

Nabulusi, a deputy from Amman, told the Jordan Times that the committee visited the university campus Wednesday and met with University President Ali Mahafza and took testimony from students.

Meanwhile, the financial committee of the House met Wednesday and formed a sub-committee to conduct a full investigation into Jordan's debts as well as corruption in the Kingdom, the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported.

The committee will conduct a probe and submit a report and will also suggest recommendations, it said.

The meeting of the Financial Committee came one day after the House held a closed session for a close scrutiny of the committee's work. The committee came under criticism during the session for its failure to achieve progress



Fares Al Nabulusi  
in the task of investigating the Kingdom's economic crisis which surfaced in 1988, according to informed sources.

The sources said the committee was given a two-week period to present a report on its findings to the full House.

The Upper House of Parliament said Wednesday its Financial Committee would meet Sunday to discuss Jordan's loan agreements and the 1990 budget, which was referred to it after approval by the Lower House earlier this month.

The Lower House will meet Saturday under the chairmanship of its speaker, Suliman Arar, to discuss several important issues, Petra said. The agency added that Cabinet ministers were expected to be present at the session.

## Jordan begins exports of flowers

By Marwan M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first shipment of Jordanian-produced cut flowers to the Federal Republic of Germany was flown to Cologne Tuesday as Jordanian agricultural and flower producers stepped up an intensive campaign to export their goods to the European Community (EC).

A container of fresh cut flowers, most of which are presently out of season in other flower producing countries, was loaded on to a Royal Jordanian carrier marking the first time the Kingdom has exported flowers to West Germany, according to Mohammad Awamleh, of the Cut Flowers Producers Cooperative Association.

There have been individual efforts in the past to export Jordanian flowers to EC coun-

tries, but this time it is a combined effort," Awamleh told the Jordan Times. "After attending the Green Week in Berlin in February, a lot of contacts were made and possibilities for exports studied... as far as export of fresh cut flowers is concerned this is the first move we have made since coming back from Germany," he added.

Seven types of flowers made up the flower shipment. They were carnations, fresia, gypsophila, gladiola, saphandar, cymara and amortail. Awamleh explained that each type of flower could have variations depending on where they are grown. "Right now, we want to create a demand for our flowers simply by putting them on the market," he said. Awamleh admitted that actual profits on the first few shipments could be minimal but stressed that the

"important thing is to get our flowers on big international markets, so that the importers can develop a taste for them."

He said that the air freight charged by Royal Jordanian was JD 1.100 per kilo because their shipment had failed to meet the minimum required weight of 45 kilograms for air freight by the airliner.

"Our shipment was approximately 22 kilos and thus did not meet the basic requirement. Had we met the requirement the freight should have been JD 0.320 per kilo," Awamleh said.

Another consignment of fresh cut flowers is awaiting approval from Stockholm for shipment, according to Awamleh.

Israel, which, according to some flower growers, has less land available to grow flowers than Jordan, exports approx-

(Continued from page 3)

## Mandela: No early concessions

LUSAKA (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela Wednesday ruled out early concessions by the African National Congress (ANC) to help President F.W. de Klerk fight off a right-wing backlash against reform of apartheid in South Africa.

Mandela, speaking at a news conference, rejected a suggestion by his host President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia that the ANC should help de Klerk by suspending armed operations inside South Africa, although the ANC has in fact been quiet on that front for some time.

Kaunda, who welcomed Mandela to Lusaka Tuesday for a week of talks with foreign leaders in Lusaka.

(Continued from page 5)

## Damascus rules out East European-style changes

**DA**—ASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad has ruled out any East European-style political and economic changes for Syria and said it would continue to develop its own brand of socialism.

In his first comments on the winds of change sweeping Eastern Europe, Assad told a group of retiring parliamentary deputies: "socialism is not intended to oppress others. It is intended to remove oppression from the oppressed."

"I do not want to say that we are practising the freedoms we want. We always want more," he said.

"We do not do anything because others are doing it. We do it when we are convinced that it reflects our belief and benefits our people... we do not do anything under the pressure of certain circumstances or at the suggestion of anyone."

But he said he wished the countries of Eastern Europe well and hoped relations with them would remain strong.

Assad's comments to deputies

who ended their four-year term Monday were carried by Syria's official news agency and reported Wednesday in local newspapers.

Moscow's staunchest Arab ally and a strong opponent of Israel, Assad, 59, has wielded power in Syria with an iron fist since taking over the country in a bloodless coup in 1970. He has also made Damascus a key factor in any consideration and act according to our will and choice."

"We will develop what we need to be developed and what we feel will benefit our people and country," he said.

Diplomats said a congress in March or early April of Assad's Baath Arab Socialist Party would discuss how to develop the Baath led five-party ruling coalition to give more say to other parties.

Referring to the country's economic structure, Assad said Syria had three sectors, the public, the private and the joint public-private sectors.

"...we will continue to encourage these three sectors and there is an urgent need to rally all our people's resources in serving the development of this country," he said.

"We built a political, party and popular system which we are

holding the captives that the time has come to release them.

"We are always ready to do as much work as we did in the past for the release of hostages, provided both parties are in agreement," a government spokesman said on condition of anonymity.

Success in any negotiations require secrecy, the spokesman said, and declined to confirm a newspaper report that contacts are under way to win the release of the 18 captives.

The leading Arab newspaper Al Hayat, published in London, reported Tuesday that discussion between the United States, Iran and Syria aimed at freeing the hostages have been making progress.

The Lebanese newspaper said the high-level contacts in Geneva between U.S. and Iranian officials had made "positive results."

The newspaper quoted Algerian sources as saying that contacts were in place through non-diplomatic organisations and that Algeria was helping in the process.

In Washington, the White House and State Department denied reports of secret talks in Geneva, which have surfaced before.

The newspaper said the failure to pay the money to Sheikh Abdul Monem Zein, a Lebanese-born Shi'ite Muslim religious leader in Dakar, Senegal, could have been the motive for last September's bombing of a Paris-bound UTA flight, in which 171 people died.

Jacques Chirac, who was present at the time of the negotiations that led to the May 1988 hostage release, denied the Libération report.

France never promised nor paid the smallest sum in exchange for the release of the hostages," Chirac said Wednesday on Europe 1 radio. "I was premier. I take the responsibility to say there never were negotiations involving this Sheikh Zein, who I never heard of before."

Libération said French officials operating under the direction of then-Interior Minister Charles Pausa apparently pursued two sets of negotiations at the same time — one with the Iranian and Syrian governments and one with Sheikh Zein, who had close contacts with the Shi'ite extremists holding the French captives in Lebanon.

Al Hayat quoted unidentified political, militia and religious sources in Beirut as saying that Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani had convinced the groups

satisfied with. We did not build it to rule despotically. The one who wants despotic rule would not build on such a base."

"We are not afraid of freedom but we are very afraid of the loss of freedom," Assad added.

"We do not have differences on this, but we are always searching for a formula (to practise freedom). Freedom would not mean anything if it was not accompanied by the formula for practising it."



Hafez Al Assad

satisfied with. We did not build it to rule despotically. The one who wants despotic rule would not build on such a base."

"We are not afraid of freedom but we are very afraid of the loss of freedom," Assad added.

"We do not have differences on this, but we are always searching for a formula (to practise freedom). Freedom would not mean anything if it was not accompanied by the formula for practising it."

MEANWHILE THE FRENCH NEWSPAPER LIBÉRATION REPORTED WEDNESDAY THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY RENEGEGED ON A PROMISE TO PAY \$3 MILLION TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEBANESE KIDNAPPERS WHO AGREED TO FREE THE THREE REMAINING FRENCH HOSTAGES IN 1988.

THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE FAILURE TO PAY THE MONEY TO SHEIKH ABDUL MONEM ZEIN, A LEBANESE-BORN SHI'ITE MUSLIM RELIGIOUS LEADER IN DAKAR, SENEGAL, COULD HAVE BEEN THE MOTIVE FOR LAST SEPTEMBER'S BOMBING OF A PARIS-BOUND UTA FLIGHT, IN WHICH 171 PEOPLE DIED.

JACQUES CHIRAC, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT LED TO THE MAY 1988 HOSTAGE RELEASE, DENIED THE LIBÉRATION REPORT.

FRANCE NEVER PROMISED NOR PAID THE SMALLEST SUM IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES," CHIRAC SAID WEDNESDAY ON EUROPE 1 RADIO. "I WAS PREMIER. I TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO SAY THERE NEVER WERE NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING THIS SHEIKH ZEIN, WHO I NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE."

LIBÉRATION SAID FRENCH OFFICIALS OPERATING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THEN-INTERIOR MINISTER CHARLES PAUSA APPARENTLY PURSUED TWO SETS OF NEGOTIATIONS AT THE SAME TIME — ONE WITH THE IRANIAN AND SYRIAN GOVERNMENTS AND ONE WITH SHEIKH ZEIN, WHO HAD CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE SHI'ITE EXTREMISTS HOLDING THE FRENCH CAPTIVES IN LEBAON.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

ONE OF THE JUNIOR OFFICIALS IN THOSE NEGOTIATIONS WAS ROBERT ROSS, NOW THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA. ON WEDNESDAY, HE MET HIS USUAL PRACTICE OF REFUSING TO COMMENT ON THE HOSTAGE SITUATION.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.

THE 18 CAPTIVES ARE BELIEVED TO BE HELD BY GROUPS LOYAL TO HIZBOLLAH, A RADICAL SHI'ITE MUSLIM ORGANISATION WITH STRONG TIES TO IRAN. PLU CHAIRMAN YASSER ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE KEY TO ANY HOSTAGE RELEASE LIES IN TEHRAN.</p

## Official laments private sector performance, urges better use of potential

AMMAN (Petra) — The private sector's contribution to the implementation of the 1986-1990 five year development plan did not exceed 30 per cent in the past year although this sector has the potential to play a very important role in the development of the national economy, complained Dr. Abdulla Abu Ayyash, director of regional planning at the Ministry of Planning.

"The private sector in Jordan can and should play a major role to help the country carry out its economic adjustment programme which is being spearheaded by the public sector to stimulate the national economy," said Abu Ayyash at a meeting attended by the heads of five committees in charge of regional planning for the Amman area.

"The private sector is invited to complement the efforts of the government to put the economy on the right track through new investments that would bring in more income and improve the country's balance of payments," Abu Ayyash said.

All sectors are required to contribute since the task is a national one," he added.

His views are echoed by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin, who urged individuals and private organisations to increase their investments in small-scale projects.

"The present economic difficulties in Jordan makes it imperative on all sectors to cooperate fully and to follow a new constructive course that would ensure the best exploitation of the available resources," Amin said at the meeting.

The meeting reviewed programmes for 1990 and analysed the achievements of the past four years.

### Agricultural committee

Milich Al Odeh, chairman of the agricultural committee, presented a report on the agricultural situation in the Amman region. He urged the concerned authorities to speed up enactment of legislations that would ensure proper use and protection of lands.

He called on the armed forces, students at schools and universities, the Public Security Department (PSD) and other organisations to actively participate in the country's afforestation projects.

The report also recommended that measures be taken to halt encroachment on farmland by construction operations which reduce the amount of arable and productive land.

It suggested the formation of a specialised farmers association that can handle the process of importing farming requirements and marketing of products.

The participants reviewed a report by the industrial committee which pointed out several problems in the industrial sector. The report called industrialists to diversify and upgrade the quality of their manufactured products. It also called for increased cooperation between the private and public sectors to reduce unemployment. The report proposed ideas about dealing with environmental pollution and industrial security.

### Commercial committee

The commercial committee's report outlined the difficulties encountered in trade, referring in particular to local and international events which have contributed to the aggravation of these problems. The report presented ideas to help boost free trade and reactivate the national economy.

The report proposed more facilities and tax exemptions, called for supporting the private sector to invest capital in commercial schemes, and urged the government to provide for transport and communication that facilitate these efforts.

The infrastructure committee's report proposed that priority should now be given to telephone services in areas lacking them including Hay Nazzal, Al Marrikh and Jabal Al Akhdar and Abdoun. It also called for installation of more post office boxes at post offices to facilitate communication services.

A report by the social services sector committee urged the concerned authorities to launch training courses for workers who could take over jobs from non-Jordanians, and to expand the base of vocational training for highschool graduates. The report also urged more attention be given to primary health care services to reduce the pressure on hospitals run by the National Medical Institution (NMI).

The housing committee reported stressed the need to reduce the cost of home construction, and urged authorities to encourage traditional building designs that are in harmony with the Arab and Islamic architecture.

## Air pollution levels worry environmentalists

By Nur Sati  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Air pollution in Jordan may not be as critical as in the heavily industrialised countries of the West, but environmentalists are concerned over areas such as Zarqa, Aqaba and downtown Amman because the level of pollution in those areas exceeds internationally accepted standards.

A three-day workshop was held in Amman this week to discuss the issue and seek means and ways to keep the pollution level in check. Among the issues discussed at the workshop, held at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), were air pollution monitoring, standards and specifications as well as health hazards.

Arab and foreign representatives from Syria, Kuwait, Egypt, Canada and the U.S. in addition to delegates from Arab universities and research centres and institutions concerned with the environment attended the three-day workshop.

The objectives of the workshop was to review activities, obstacles and research efforts undertaken in the Middle East region and to discuss and analyse procedures to set national air pollution standards

as well as to increase awareness of the importance of air pollution monitoring on a global level.

According to Ayman Al Hassan, from the Environmental Research Centre at the RSS, several surveys were conducted in different parts of the country in the past few years. One of the surveys took place between 1986-1989 to establish a baseline information on the extent of air pollution and to obtain the necessary data for the development of air quality standards for urban areas in Jordan. Hassan said that with this base, the RSS consulted with foreign environmentalists at this workshop to help Jordan design a strategy suitable to local needs.

The survey, which was conducted by seven technicians, chemists and engineers from the Environmental Research Centre, had monitors in Jubeiba, a sparsely populated and clean area, in downtown Amman to measure traffic emissions at the city centre, and in Ma'an, in eastern Amman which represents a residential area with light industry.

According to Hassan, the study revealed that nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide concentrations were very high in different parts of the city, "but particularly in the downtown area, the concentrations were higher than international standards."

He explained that the area is a restricted-ventilation area where the mass pollution is trapped because the town is surrounded by hills and there are heavy and continuous traffic congestions throughout the year.

According to the survey which was announced at the workshop, the highest levels of sulphur dioxide were recorded during the rush hours in the morning and evening. Hassan added that weekends and cold climate tend to encourage the level of sulphur.

Environmentalists maintain that if measures are not taken soon, the extremely high concentration of such particles could cause detrimental health effects damaging people's lungs, throats and eyes. Such pollution has been in the area for a long time and residents have been raising complaints on and off over unhealth air, experts said.

Dr. Dan Kelley, Canadian scientist and engineer adviser at the Department of Environment, said that although resi-

dents may feel irritated now, pollution also has long-term effects. Therefore, health experts and planners, environmentalists and policy-makers must get together now to design strategy to conquer pollution.

Hassan said that the surveys were not sufficient and a broader investigation was needed before the issue could be addressed in all its aspects.

While downtown Amman is mainly endangered by traffic congestions, there are other areas of major concern to environmentalists. After a one year study in Zarqa in 1989, it was found that high levels of hydrogen sulphide polluted the air, according to Nagib Akeel, air pollution and hazardous material division manager at the RSS.

Akeel said that the main sources of pollution in the Zarqa area were the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, the Kharbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant, and the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station. According to the survey, out of 195 observations about 51 exceeded internationally accepted standards which are about 0.06 particles per million (PPM), while the Zarqa area recorded 0.32

PPM.

Akeel said that residents often complain about difficulty in breathing in Al Hasheemiyeh, a town in Zarqa which is adjacent to the three plants.

According to health specialists, high doses of hydrogen sulphide produce severe effects on the nervous and respiratory systems and to wildlife.

Akeel added that there is a lot more work to do because what was discovered so far is little compared to the other pollutants that "we do not know about yet that are harmful to health and wildlife."

According to surveys, the Jordan Petroleum Refinery and Al Hussein Thermal Power Station emit around 27,000 tonnes of sulphur every year. (Hussein plant alone emits 15,000 tonnes yearly).

Akeel also expressed concern over the Aqaba port where large amounts of fuel oil are consumed. Fuel oil contains about four per cent sulphur.

Akeel said that a way must be found to minimise the sulphur consumption. "This workshop should enable us to come up with a national standard and conduct more in-depth research to tackle this critical problem," he said.

## Group urges Palestinian universities be reopened

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Association of Arab Universities (AAU) Wednesday urged international organisations to end Israel's arbitrary actions against Palestinian universities, and appealed for help to reopen these institutions, closed since the start of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories in December 1987.

AAU secretary-general Mohammad Dughaib sent cables to United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and to the director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Paris urging speedy action to reopen the universities

of Palestine and other institutions," said Dughaib in the cables.

He said Palestinian students should be allowed to enjoy basic human rights in acquiring knowledge in peace and dignity.

The appeal followed Tuesday's reports from the occupied Arab territories which quoted Israeli occupying authorities and request your excellencies to use your good offices to secure the reopening

of Palestinian universities and other institutions, despite Arab and Western protests.

The decision defied repeated protests by the European Community, which had threatened to suspend scientific cooperation with Israeli universities over the issue.

Students held sit-ins at educational institutions across the occupied West Bank earlier in the day to demand that the six Arab

universities in the occupied territories be reopened.

Israel, claiming that the campuses were centres of unrest, closed them immediately after the uprising erupted in December 1987.

According to earlier reports, students occupied the Red Cross office in Ramallah and similar demonstrations were reported by Palestinians in Jerusalem and Hebron.

## Arabisation of army marked

AMMAN (J.T.) — Today is the 34th anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces upon orders from His Majesty King Hussein.

The King ordered the termination of the services of General John Glubb, as commander of the Armed Forces, and said that Jordanian officers should take up the command of the Kingdom's Armed Forces.

The move was significant in view of the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict and the dangers that Israel's occupation of Palestine posed to the Arab Nation. It also came as a manifestation of Jordan's desire to rid itself of foreign domination.

Since March 1, 1956, King Hussein has continually worked towards strengthening the Armed Forces and has made all efforts to ensure they are provided with the most up to date weapons required for defending the homeland.

On the occasion of the anniversary, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday sent a cable to the King conveying the congratulations of the Armed Forces. He said that the King's "historic decision came amid difficult and crucial circumstances in the Arab World and crowning the struggle of the vanguards who led the Great Arab Revolt and sought to uphold its principles and to achieve its mission."

Abu Taleb said that the Armed Forces take pride in serving under the King and reiterated their allegiance to the throne.

## Experts stress Jordan's need to focus on exports, manufacturing

By Marium M. Shahn  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordanian trade relations should be expected to change significantly in the 1990s, transforming Jordan from an import-oriented country to a state manufacturing and exporting goods and services, according to members of the Jordanian-Scandinavian Businessmen Association (Scandinab), at a yearly club function last week.

If Jordanians concentrate on developing small-scale industries which would serve local and international markets, "Industries comprised of six-15 people make up 70 per cent of the Danish industries," he said. "These industries export goods because Denmark's local market, like that of Jordan, is small. The point is that such operations do not need millions of dollars. They need only JD 100,000 - 200,000 to begin with," he pointed out.

He believes that while Jordan's large publicly-owned industries such as the fertiliser, potash and cement factories employ thousands of people they also need heavy investment which is not feasible for everyone interested in establishing an industry.

In his capacity as a member of Scandab, Andersen presented some of his thoughts as to how Jordanians could help themselves to build a more feasible infrastructure for industrial successes.

Andersen stressed the importance of small-scale industries which would serve local and international markets. "Industries comprised of six-15 people make up 70 per cent of the Danish industries," he said. "These industries export goods because Denmark's local market, like that of Jordan, is small. The point is that such operations do not need millions of dollars. They need only JD 100,000 - 200,000 to begin with," he pointed out.

He said that while foreigners had been willing to invest in Jordan for a long time, Jordanians had not seized that full opportunity to take full advantage of what was being offered to them.

Jordanians have to know that foreigners need incentives to invest in Jordan. No-one has to invest in that country but many are willing and able. All we ask is that Jordanians meet us half way.

Pass some encouraging investment laws and watch the investments grow," Andersen said.

Outside investment

Although most grants and funds made available by foreign governments are aimed at the public sector, Anderson believes they have not been taken advantage of to the fullest.

"Jordan is getting a lot of interest-free loans and grants from all over the world and maybe they could be used to encourage the public sector as well. Small industries are not a taboo for anyone," he said.

He said that while foreigners had been willing to invest in Jordan for a long time, Jordanians had not seized that full opportunity to take full advantage of what was being offered to them.

Jordanians have to know that foreigners need incentives to invest in Jordan. No-one has to invest in that country but many are willing and able. All we ask is that Jordanians meet us half way.

Pass some encouraging investment laws and watch the investments grow," Andersen said.

## Palestinians stage strike

(Continued from page 1) broken up by soldiers firing tear gas, and six students were arrested, reports said.

The six Palestinian universities have been closed by army orders for two years.

Tourist stabbed

A 58-year-old British tourist was stabbed in the back Wednesday as he walked alone in the West Bank town of Hebron, Israeli hospital officials said.

Israel Radio said the man was found by the side of a road with a knife in his back by a Jewish settler who lives near Hebron and rushed to hospital in Jerusalem.

Ruth Mekel, the hospital's spokeswoman, said the man was in moderate condition after surgery to repair the knife wound and damage to one lung.

Neither the hospital nor officials at the British consulate would release the victim's name, saying his family had not yet been notified.

It was unclear what the man was doing alone in Hebron, which has been the site of repeated clashes between Palestinians, Jewish settlers and Israeli troops.

Attacks on foreigners have been rare during the uprising.

Since the rebellion began in December 1987, three foreigners have been killed, all in an attack on a bus last July. Thirteen Israelis were also killed in the bus attack.

The army said Hebron was put under a curfew, which confines people to their homes, and that

search and arrest operations were under way. Army officials declined to say how many people were detained.

Houses destroyed

Israeli troops destroyed five houses in the occupied territories Wednesday to punish the families of Palestinian activists accused of anti-Israeli crimes.

The house demolitions occurred despite repeated criticism from the United States and human rights groups that Israel's policy of destroying and sealing houses constitutes collective punishment.

The U.S. State Department said in its human rights report released Feb. 20 that "the United States believes demolition and sealing as punishment families contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention."

The convention, to which Israel is a signatory, regulates the rights and treatment of people under occupation.

One of the homes blown up, in the Jabeliya refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, belonged to 60-year-old Abdul Raouf Mabhouh and included two other apartments housing a total of 35 people, reports said.

The army said Mabhouh's son Mahmud, 30, was wanted in connection with the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers last year. Military officials who insisted on anonymity said Mahmud was a member of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement and is believed to have fled to Egypt.

Priorities for the United States in Lebanon should be to "get Israel out of Lebanon and with the Soviet Union, impose an embargo on arms flowing into Lebanon," James Zogby, the executive director of the Arab

indicated that relations were being reestablished.

"Agriculture is very important to Jordan. At present approximately 12 per cent of Jordanian exports are agricultural exports and they could increase easily if Jordanian agricultural exporters work together," Awamleh said.

He said that Jordanian vegetable exports worldwide

amounted to 350,000 tonnes in the 1986-87 season and increased to 580,000 tonnes in the 1988-89 season. Vegetable exports to EC countries during the same period increased from 380 tonnes to 2,000 tonnes.

Israel, a main vegetable and fruit exporter to EC countries, exports \$150 million worth of fruits and vegetables to West Germany every year.

## Jordan begins exports of flowers

(Continued from page 1)

Boehlert, Republican from New York; Joe Kennedy, Democrat from Massachusetts; and Howard Nielsen, Republican from Utah.

During a session on Lebanon, David Newton, director of the office of Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinian affairs at the Department of State, said the United States strongly supports the legitimate government of President Elias Hrawi in Lebanon.

On the issue of arms flows from other countries into Lebanon, Newton said, "Everybody should do everything that can be done to keep arms out." Asked whether the United States will send a special envoy to Lebanon, Newton said, "I don't see a lot to be gained by a special envoy."

The army said Mahmud was a member of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement and is believed to have fled to Egypt.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation  
Established 1974

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 6671716, 6701414, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Shuffling the feet, but where to

THE LATEST flurry of diplomatic and political activities in Washington, Tel Aviv and Cairo seem to suggest that a breakthrough on Israeli-Palestinian talks is imminent. What propelled this guarded optimism is the growing signals emanating from Israel that the government there is on the verge of accepting the U.S. proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. If this expectation actually materialises, it will mean that American policy in the Middle East has scored a first strike, especially if this projected Israeli acceptance of dialogue is paralleled by a unified Palestinian acceptance of the U.S. terms for such talks.

Yet, there is fear that all the optimism generated by these early developments is premature. To begin with, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir is again having cold feet on the prospects of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Judging by his record, both recent and ancient, there is nothing that Shamir dreads more than dealing with the Palestinian side head on for fear that such negotiations would come to fruition. Shamir clearly feels more comfortable when chances are nil for peace talks with the Palestinian side. What is even more formidable is the fact that any such Palestinian-Israeli talks would necessarily take a long and tortuous road before they can be expected to produce real results. It is one thing to start such a dialogue and quite another to end it on positive and fair terms. Thus far there are no indicators from Israel that suggest that either the Labour or Likud parties have reconciled themselves to the proposition that Israel has to yield to the "peace for territories formula" before there can be genuine and lasting peace between it and its neighbours.

Nevertheless, there is no good purpose that can be served by pouring cold water on the prospects of peace talks in the Middle East. While it is too early to pin much hopes on the U.S. proposal getting the parties concerned anywhere, it is also premature to forecast gloom and doom in the ongoing search for peace. One thing, however, is sure: Time is ticking away very fast and playing well into the hands of extremists on both sides of the fence. Maybe Shamir has won his first round with Sharon, Levy and Modai, but there is no sure way to foretell the consequences of the next rounds between him and the extremists on his side of the fence. On the Arab side, it is a foregone conclusion that holding peace in abeyance in the Middle East for much longer would reap wonders for Arab extremism as well. That is why time is not on the side of peace in the Middle East and the sooner the Palestinian conflict is brought to a peaceful and just resolution the better it would be for all concerned. There remains, however, no escape from convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. Preliminary talks between the Palestinians and Israelis can take and should take place. But, at one stage or another, such negotiations need to be incorporated into the negotiations on the broader Arab-Israeli conflict where the U.N. Security Council would also have an opportunity to guarantee the outcome of the Arab-Israeli negotiations for all times. Anything less than that would simply be self-defeating for all sides.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

King Hussein will no doubt try through his current tour in the Gulf states to bolster ties between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The paper said this is a natural endeavour in view of the grave dangers and challenges facing the Arab World at the moment, and as the need for collective Arab action is growing every day. The Arab Nation in general and the ACC and GCC blocs in particular possess vast potentials which can serve as a tool for joint action to deal with the common threats, the paper continued. It said that the Jewish influx into Palestine is no doubt at the top of priorities for the nation, since it is an issue that concerns all Arabs and not only Jordan and the Palestinians. Therefore, said the paper, there is no alternative to collective efforts and a firm stand at this crucial moment in Arab history and there is no alternative to a united and strong Arab Nation which does not only deal with this important issue but can take the Arabs into the 21st century.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday calls on the Ministry of Labour to put an end to irresponsible action by employers who desperately try to secure the employment of non-Jordanians to work for them at a lower salary and under more difficult conditions. Salih Abdul Samad says that some employers put up misleading advertisements in the local press, requesting workers to carry out such jobs as cleaning and handling, and at the same time demand that the applicants should have completed their secondary education and carry Tawjih certificates. The writer notes that such jobs do not require any certificates or degrees; and the employers realise in advance that no people with certificates would come forth to take up these occupations. After failing to receive applications under these terms, he says, these employers call on the Ministry of Labour to allow them to employ non-Jordanians since they received no applications from Jordanian workers for the same occupations.

Al Dustour daily criticises Israel for dragging its feet to a meeting that would group the foreign ministers of Israel, the United States and Egypt and which had been scheduled a long time ago. The paper said it seems that Israel is delaying any diplomatic initiative that has to do with the Middle East and is trying to stall any moves to hold elections in the occupied territories, as the projected meeting was hoping to achieve. We are led to believe now that Shamir does not want other parties' ideas on future peace but rather he wants to have his own way; and elections that serve Israel's purpose and no others, the paper said. We do not believe that a meeting between the three countries' foreign ministers requires so much time to prepare for, nor do we believe that the three ministers will arrive at a decision ensuring Israel's total withdrawal from Arab lands, the paper continued.

## Talking Straight

# Witch-hunting spells disaster

By Marwan Muasher

**ABOUT** a year ago, the government issued a military decree closing down all moneychangers in the country for what it called speculation on the dinar by them which led to the economic crisis the country was going through. Almost immediately, our press jumped on the wagon and published all kinds of articles supporting the government's position and even going beyond it, accusing moneychangers with every atrocity in the book. Two months later, the government collapsed, the country woke up to the fact that the economic crisis was much larger than anybody thought, and by the passage of time, it became apparent to everybody that no particular group or business sector alone could have been responsible for the crisis. It even became apparent that the largest factor responsible for our deep economic crisis was mismanagement by all successive governments who would not take the necessary measures to prevent the problem from happening. Today, the public mood is even sympathetic for the return of moneychangers who were made scapegoats. The prevailing feeling is that they were grossly mistreated by closing their businesses, for over a year now, and that they already should have been allowed to resume their operations.

Two weeks ago the Ministry of Labour issued a directive which has effectively banned foreign workers in Jordan from renewing their licenses except in certain sectors of the economy. Again, the press immediately and blindly jumped on the wagon, and, together with the ministry, reduced the whole problem of unemployment to blaming those "greedy businessmen" who refuse to employ Jordanians and who mistreat foreigners. No attempt was even made to look at the issue from all sides and to deal with it rationally. The scapegoat mentality again ruled our behaviour.

Through the first and second examples, our society has also been faced with a new phenomenon, that of underground leaflets accusing just about everybody in society with corruption. When they first appeared, the justification was that lack of freedoms had left people with no choice but to resort to these practices in order to voice their grievances. Today, with freedoms restored, leaflets have not only continued to appear, but have also dropped to such a low level of what can only be described as scum that people are reading them for amusement rather than as outlets against corruption.

The list is long, but I do not need to go any further to claim that we are engaging ourselves in a process of national witch-hunting. No two people would differ that today we face severe difficulties, on top of which is our present economic crisis. There are two alternatives we can opt for to deal with this crisis, however. We can choose the easy way out, like we have been doing, and look for scapegoats to cover our own impotence, or we can join hands in studying the causes of the problem and work together to overcome it. This is the more difficult, but more productive, and ultimately rewarding option. It is a national tragedy that both the government and the press, despite the vast changes they both experienced in personalities and outlooks over the past year, appear to have chosen the first course. It is a course that evades the real issues by directing society's energies at jumping at each other's throats instead of looking at the overall picture in an analytical way and suggesting proper solutions. It is a course, I am afraid, that could lead to disaster.

It does not take a world-class economist to realise that one of the most important factors in any economic recovery we hope to achieve is private investment. This investment does not come

about because of an emotional appeal by the government to its people. Rather, it is the product of a process of confidence-building, a healthy atmosphere nourished by the government through a package of consistent and clear policies, and supported by the private sector.

The need for society to work as a team has never been more evident as now. Instead, we have managed to draw a rift between the private and public sectors that has never been as wide. To the public, the private sector is today synonymous with greed, and special interests. Likewise, the public sector is synonymous with corruption, inefficiency, inconsistency, impotence.

These feelings have no doubt been nourished by greedy, inefficient, corrupt, inconsistent practices on both sides. What I am afraid of is that they are turning into a pattern of policies taken from institutions rather than individual actions. What is also aggravating the problem is that the press is not playing a positive role here. For whatever historical reasons, our press has not developed to the point where it can analytically look at issues, truly allow a debate where all sides are represented, and present a realistic situation so that the public mood can be affected positively.

Today, instead of creating an atmosphere of trust that would bring the private and public sectors closer together, we have collectively been responsible for drawing them further apart. We can go on with this process of witch hunting, and while believing we are doing the public good ruin the country, or we can stop and take a deep look at measures we can take that would allow us to truly join forces, in action and not in words, to get out of the crisis. History provides us with examples of nations which have followed both courses of action. The choice is ours.

## LETTERS

### Clarification

To the Editor:

In accordance with the freedom of the press, we would be grateful if you published the following in clarification of the report concerning the "Unaccounted U.S.\$22.5 million Petra Bank deal surfaces," published on the front page of your newspaper dated Feb. 15-16 1990.

We would obviously like the following clarification to be printed in the same place as the above-mentioned report.

The previous Petra Bank management had discounted promissory notes with foreign banks totalling U.S.\$22.5 million detailed as follows:

1. On Dec. 22, 1988, three promissory notes were discounted for a total of U.S.\$7.5 million. The net proceeds of these were credited to the Petra Bank account with Mantrust Co., New York per attached credit note.

2. On Jan. 23, 1989, six promissory notes were discounted for a total of US\$15 million. The net proceeds of these were also credited to the Petra Bank account with Mantrust Co., New York per attached credit note.

We are surprised that your so-called "informed sources" did not mention this fact. Furthermore your so-called "informed sources" at the bank should not have leaked such biased information at this time.

These promissory notes are binding on the Petra Bank regardless of who represents the management. It is our firm belief that the "informed sources" at the bank, in leaking such information, are trying to cover-up the present management's failure in meeting their obligations in this case.

The bank in fact engaged in such trade operations extensively in the past several years totalling hundreds of millions of dollars with the knowledge of the Central Bank of Jordan. This method of funding trade is considered normal procedure in international banking.

Ahmad Chalabi

*Editor's note: The above letter was facsimiled to the Jordan Times. The writer did not include his address in it.*

### Great country

To the Editor:

I ARRIVED eight days ago, a guest of your country, sponsored by the United States government to complete a 21-day mission to teach and improve basketball in Jordan. What a wonderful eight days it has been, I arrived knowing little about your country, but in a very short time I have come to love and respect your people. You are a kind, educated people who show a profound love for your King and a deep respect for visitors and each other. As a guest in homes, or being in constant contact with people of all ages, I now have nothing but respect for your beautiful country and its rich traditions. You are a justly proud people. Having spent a great deal of time with the youth of the nation I can assure you your country is in good hands for decades to come.

I came a stranger but in 13 days I will leave a friend. Upon return to the United States, I will proclaim to all I meet, the greatness, beauty and kindness I found across the ocean in the land called Jordan.

Coach John Weinert  
Bowling Greene University,  
U.S.A.

### Make haste slowly

To the Editor:

OUR hasty reaction to the Soviet decision regarding Soviet Jews and their mass immigration to Israel is again a manifestation of our naivety and superficial treatment of the sudden challenges we usually face.

We have made a loud noise that was echoed by many of our supporters; but have we come up with a pragmatic and practical proposition?

Don't we deceive ourselves and walk into the set trap when we portray the whole problem as a fear that the mass of the arriving Soviet Jews will settle in our occupied territories?

This portrayal helped our enemies to neutralise the problem. The Israeli government declared that it has no plans to settle Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Americans are demanding assurances from Israel to the same effect. The USSR is doing the same. The rest of the world will be satisfied if the newcomers are settled only in pre-1967 Israeli held areas.

Assuming this demand has been strictly adhered to what will prevent the Soviet Jews from displacing an equal willing number of non-Soviet Israelis from Tel Aviv or other Israeli towns to the occupied land? The result is the same. More Israeli expansion, more Palestinian suffering, more hatred and less chances for peace.

Why don't we rethink our strategies?  
Why don't we follow Benjamin Franklin's saying "Make haste slowly"?

M. Abu Sand

## Romanian ideological guru looks at revolution's roots, impact

By Edith M. Lederer  
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Silvin Brucan put it in writing two years ago: by 1990, he predicted, a new generation would be leading the Eastern bloc.

Before December's revolution, he said, the decisions of the last Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, including relinquishing its monopoly on power, "were inconceivable."

The 74-year-old Brucan has been a journalist, academic and ambassador to the United States from 1956-59 and the United Nations from 1959-62. Once a Stalinist and ranking party member, he broke with Ceausescu in 1965.

He was placed under house arrest in March 1989 with five other Romanians who signed an open letter criticising the dictator.

Brucan's re-emergence in revolutionary Romania has been controversial.

He has been denounced as a Stalinist, but Brucan says he rejected Stalinism long ago, and describes himself as committed to multiparty democracy.

Communist parties in Eastern Europe "are doomed to extinction," he says, by a scientific and technological revolution that has created distinct social groups and virtually destroyed the working class which has been their base of support.

In a prophetic article published in 1987 in the Boston monthly worldpaper (CO) and reprinted in the International Herald Tribune, he foresaw the collapse of the East bloc dictatorships.

"It's a Romanian obsession in China, and that will topple them

"Conservative leaders clinging to economic orthodoxy face a formidable challenge that is bound to accelerate the changing of the guard. By 1990 a new political generation will be in command all over Eastern Europe," he wrote.

He theorised that the economies of the Soviet Union, Poland and Hungary would be governed by the market, that Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria were moving cautiously in that direction, and that Romania "will have no choice" because of the integration of the East bloc economies.

But Brucan said the power behind Romania's revolution was totally unexpected.

"I didn't expect a popular explosion of such magnitude, especially I didn't expect the youth in Romania to have such a high political and civic conscience," he said.

As he watched the rise of Solidarity in Poland and signs of democratisation in other East bloc countries, Brucan said his main concern was trying to keep from being killed by Ceausescu.

After criticising Ceausescu over his brutal suppression of riots in Brasov in 1987, Brucan was put under house arrest. In October 1988, quite unexpectedly, he was offered a passport to go to the United States.

Fearing a trap, he said he decided to stop in London and Moscow as well "and make my name known so much interna-

tionaly that the price of killing me was so high that Ceausescu could not pay."

Pressure from the United States, Britain and Soviet Union saved him from arrest on his return home in late November 1988, he said.

During his stay in Moscow, Brucan said the Soviets made "a very reluctant" promise of support should Ceausescu fall. But he vehemently denied that there had been a conspiracy to topple the dictator, calling such reports in the Western press "trash."

"If there was a plot and we succeeded... don't you think we should have boasted about it and made political capital about it?" he asked. "It would have strengthened considerably our legitimacy — and political modesty has no place, particularly at a time of revolution."

The front, a group of 150 intellectuals, workers and dissidents, at first pledged to stay out of the election but reversed itself last month. Daily demonstrations culminated in the front's agreement three weeks ago to share power with 37 political parties in a council of national unity until the election.

The most difficult thing since the revolution, Brucan said, "was to convince people to share power with the other political parties — and to get across the point... that a strong opposition is essential in a democracy. That is now over."

## Mutt'n Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



## Applying and reapplying for U.S. visas

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN — A long line of people waiting patiently in front of the American embassy has almost become a landmark in Jabel Amman, raising curiosity among many passers-by. But for those who know, the people lined up have only one thing in mind — obtain an American visa, whether tourist, immigrant, business or student.

People start gathering in front of the American mission as early as seven in the morning on every week day, huddling in the cold, clutching documents and passports, and await their turn to enter the building and present their case.

Some of them are lucky to get a visa at the first try, and others return there with whatever papers they did not have when they first applied. Still others leave totally disappointed, never to comeback.

"My first application was turned down," said Wahid Hussein Ali Hussein, a mechanic.

"Now I am armed with all the papers they wanted: an employment certificate, a bank statement and a copy of my employer's license for an electrical maintenance shop," he told the Jordan Times as he waited for his turn.

Mohammad Ali Obeidi, another youth standing next to Hussein, was upbeat, although he did not know if he would be among the lucky ones to get a visa to the U.S.

By and large, these sentiments were echoed by most of the people in the line. For many, an American visa represents "an escape, a refuge and a chance to make better money," summed up a middle-aged man who said he was a businessman but declined to be named.

According to an official at the American consulate, there is always a sound reason why visa applications are turned down. "The applicants have to prove to the consul that they qualify for a visa according to the parameters laid down by American law," he said. First and foremost, the ap-

plicant for a tourist or business visa has to show evidence that he or she intends to return to Jordan after the visit; a bank statement, real estate documents or certificates attesting that he or she holds a steady job in Jordan.

Many voiced complaints that the passports of rejected visa applicants were stamped by the consulate indicating that the holder's visa application had been "turned down." This makes it difficult to reapply," commented a young girl who declined to be named.

But the consulate official, who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity, said the procedure of stamping the passport was legal under international law and that "an applicant can reapply; the refusal of an earlier application does not prejudice a second one."

According to the official, approximately 26,000 Jordanians were issued tourist visas to the U.S. last year.

### Immigrants

Immigrants visas represent a

totally different story starting from applications filed months or even years ahead and winding through bureaucracy and "dozens and dozens of official documents," said a woman applicant.

Mariam Subhi and her husband, a truck driver, said they had applied for immigrant visas so that they could work in the U.S. and "make more money."

Saud Al Manaseer, a schoolteacher with a degree in telecommunications, wants to emigrate because "the economic situation in Jordan is bad. I want to get a job in the U.S. as well as pursue higher education."

Jihan Al Hindi said she wanted to join her family members who already hold "green cards" in the U.S.

The consulate official said the number of immigrant applications rose from 1,300 in 1983 to 1,600 in 1989, not a dramatic increase despite a steady rise in people seeking to emigrate to the U.S. as reported by independent observers.

"We have been working on a system of family reunification and

special job skills," said the consular official. "Nationality is not an issue," he said referring to a quota system introduced in 1967 to replace an earlier system in force since 1952 and based on nationality. "The only limitation on nationality is that no more than 40,000 people from one country can emigrate to the U.S. in one year," the official added.

The only exception, it will appear, is Soviets. According to the American ambassador to Jordan, Roscoe Suddarth, the quota for Soviet immigrants for fiscal 1990 (October 1989 to September 1990) is 50,000, which could be raised by 20,000 under a parole and immigration programme and by another 30,000 under proposed legislation. The ambassador released these figures at a recent meeting with a group of Jordanian activists who complained that American restrictions were forcing Soviet Jewish emigres to go to Israel and the occupied territories.

The official could not provide any figure on people who "abuse" their tourist or student visas and opt to stay on in the United States. "No records or figures are available in this context," he said.

Six or seven countries, including the Philippines, India, Mexico and Jamaica, have reached the

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, MARCH 1-2, 1990 5

Randa Habib's Corner

### Strikomania

IMAGINE this: At one of Amman's homes the wife asks her husband over breakfast to return early from work so as to go together on a shopping spree, one of Ammanites' most entertaining outdoor "sports".

"Sorry, I will not be able to come back by lunch time and I don't think I will make it back home before the evening," the well-dressed executive tells his wife.

"Heaps of work on your desk?" she exclaims. "No, actually, the company is on strike." The conversation ends here, an indication to the recent wave of sit-ins in Jordan, home to nearly 100,000 unemployed.

It seems that sit-ins and strikes are the latest "democratic" fashion that recently hit Amman. Scores of employees, labourers and students, enjoying a recent blow of "glasnost," have organised the once "taboo" sit-ins as means of public pressure to achieve their demands.

From Petra Bank employees, who demanded long-sought wage increases, to the students of the Arab Community college, who wanted decreased tuition fees, sit-in "fever" seems to have snowballed to the extent that protests became the "first defensive line" for settling disputes rather than legal arbitration.

The sudden outbreak of "strikomania," however, could be attributed to the lack of "safety valves" or legal outlets over the past three decades when the margin of freedom of expression was virtually non-existent.

The right to strike, albeit sacred, could be all the more productive if it was based on realistic grounds and, moreover, if it took into account the current economic state of affairs in the country. It is obvious that Jordan's austerity budget is barely meeting the growing demands of the people's basic needs, let alone those of strike enthusiasts.

Peres doubts Shamir's moves

(Continued from page 1)  
within 10 days if Shamir's government falls.

Peres also told the AP that if he forms a new government, he will continue to back the Israeli election plan rather seek a new peace formula.

"If there was a new government it would stay with the current approach," Peres said.

Baker's compromise on the composition of a Palestinian delegation calls for including Palestinians from Arab Jerusalem and some expelled by the Israeli authorities in preliminary Cairo peace talks, Israeli newspapers said.

The official could not provide any figure on people who "abuse" their tourist or student visas and opt to stay on in the United States. "No records or figures are available in this context," he said.

They also call for Egypt to announce the names of the delegations and for the genda to be left open to allow Palestinians to bring up subjects other than the elections.

Including Palestinians from Jerusalem has been a major sticking point for Likud, which fears such a move would undercut Israel's claim to the city as its "capital."

"I'm not sure East Jerusalem is the only issue," Peres said. "They [Likud] think it's the wrong way to go."

Likud fears that some of the proposals could lead to indirect involvement by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It also opposes any land-for-peace settlement, which both the United States and Labour Party would accept.

Israeli reports said Israel's "forum of four" leaders — Peres,

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens — would convene Friday to discuss Baker's proposals.

Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner denied any meeting was yet scheduled and said Shamir "still hasn't decided" his position on the American ideas.

### Likud insight

Pazner acknowledged that Shamir was under pressure from Likud hawks but insisted the prime minister was in control.

"He has difficulties in the party but knows he has a massive majority," Pazner told the AP.

Pazner also insisted that Sharon, who chairs the party's 3,070-member central committee, cannot convene the body with Shamir's agreement.

But Israeli newspapers said Sharon plans to go ahead with a session early next week with or without Shamir.

Even Shamir's supporters in Likud voiced concern about the in-fighting.

Asked on army radio whether Shamir was still the party's unquestioned leader, legislator Benjamin Begin, the son of former Premier Menachem Begin, said:

"That is a question that needs examination."

Began also appealed for Likud unity to prevent a Labour-dominated coalition from emerging.

"We are walking a thin rope," Begin said. "We cannot just say we are tired, run away, and let Mr. Peres conduct the matter."

**Mandela: No early concessions**

(Continued from page 1)

to participate in the initial stages of the talks risked prosecution for offenses not covered by the ending of a 30-year ban on the ANC and other restrictions.

Mandela said the refusal to accommodate the ANC demands showed "it is quite clear the government is not yet prepared to meet us."

Mandela, 71, freed by de Klerk as part of sweeping reforms, defended his support for Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who arrived in Zambia

Tuesday to meet with him.

He challenged South Africa's powerful Jewish community to "face the truth squarely."

"I believe there are many similarities between our struggle and that of the PLO. We live under a unique form of colonialism in South Africa as well as in Israel," he said.

Mandela also defended the ANC's call for continued economic sanctions pressure the Pretoria government into taking substantive steps to dismantle apartheid.

## Why the secrecy?

By Vladimir Pustogarov

Speaking at the USSR Congress of People's Deputies in Moscow in June, Mikhail Gorbachev for the first time ever revealed the country's defence spending. Soon afterwards, the Soviet press gave the details of the military budget's structure. Prime Minister Ryzhkov revealed the Soviet Union's foreign debt in his speech at the Congress. This, too, was done for the first time. The Soviet space shuttle Buran has been on show at Le Bourget in France. The Soviet press now widely publishes information which, until recently was prohibited: the crime situation, number of people entering and leaving the country, and many other things. Down came the ramparts of secrecy, which the command and administrative system had built up for decades. The writer is a member of the Association of Soviet Lawyers, and the article is reprinted from the Soviet magazine, Culture and Life.

SECRECY was inherent in the command and administrative system. It cemented the system and hid its mechanism from the eyes of the people. Total secrecy lay as a heavy burden on our economy and public life. It assisted the deformation of the relationship between the society and the state and alienated the citizen from the state. Secrecy fenced the Soviet Union off from international life and prevented it from actively participating in scientific and technological exchanges and the international division sustained enormous intellectual and material losses and earned the reputation of a closed society, which hid its plans and ideas.

Excessive secrecy, in the meantime, is not the fruit of a well-planned government policy. It is the other way round, the consequence of the absence of such a policy. I want to say from a lawyer's point of view that the diktat of secrecy was fostered by the absence of a clear-cut legal foundation. Distinct from the State Security Committee (KGB) is such a body, but this is not true. The secrecy stamps are established by ministries and departments, who often take their own view of state secrets, which accords with their departmental interests. State secrets protect the vitally important interests of the Soviet people, but the protection of such secrets does not rest on the foundation of a clear-cut policy and efficient organisation. According to a Russian saying, a

child is apt to lose an eye when it has as many as seven nurses.

The restructuring of the government's secrecy policy is closely connected with the USSR's foreign policy activities, which are based on new thinking and, specifically, on the principle of openness. There have been a series of large-scale Soviet proposals, during the past few years, concerning the consolidation of peace and security, the development of cooperation and understanding between peoples. The proposals range from stage-by-stage liquidation of nuclear arsenals, the reduction of conventional arms to the limits of reasonable sufficiency, the strengthening of the U.N. and the more efficient use of its mechanisms, the political settlement of regional conflicts to the construction of a European home.

Realisation of these initiatives will narrow areas of secrecy in inter-governmental relations and establish a climate of trust between them as well as a sense of security. The reorganisation of the system of protecting state secrets of the USSR is part of this overall process. It must specifically offer greater elbow-room on the world market for Soviet enterprises and remove excessive obstacles to the establishment of joint and mixed enterprises.

People's diplomacy, which binds millions together with relations based on trust, plays a great role in bringing nations together and removing enemy images. People's diplomacy has no secrets and its openness substantially influences the shaping of modern international relationships. Through cultural exchanges, reciprocal visits of delegations and contacts between citizens as well as the organisation of exhibitions and other initiatives, the Union of Soviet Friendship Societies helps broad sections of the foreign public to get a true picture of life in the USSR and the Soviet people to learn the truth about life abroad. People's diplomacy destroys the ramparts of uninformness and suspicion, of hostility and fear.

There is urgent need to establish a national body for the protection of state secrets. It is now generally thought that the State Security Committee (KGB) is such a body, but this is not true. The secrecy stamps are established by ministries and departments, who often take their own view of state secrets, which accords with their departmental interests. State secrets protect the vitally important interests of the Soviet people, but the protection of such secrets does not rest on the foundation of a clear-cut policy and efficient organisation.

"I had a little experience in those conditions myself," he remembered. "I was 15 years old. They had a ready answer then for the homeless. They gave me 180 days on a chain gang."

"I have no idea," Mitchum mutters.

Mitchum allows that he is confident he will not have to work

the long hours demanded of many television series.

"Not if you're working with children," he said with a trace of a smile. "The social department won't permit them to work too long."

Mitchum also lets on that one of the things he likes about appearing in "regular joe" is that he will not have to wear makeup.

"I don't think I've worn makeup in 99 per cent of my film appearances," he said. "As long as they don't have to put a star on me or turn my hair green I don't wear makeup."

Mitchum has earned the reputation — despite his repeated denials — of being one of the best actors in Hollywood, becomes more animated when he is asked how he prepared himself for his role as a homeless person.

"I think it cost them 38 cents a day to feed and house you at the time and they rented you out for \$2 and 50 cents a day. That was the answer then to the homeless."

Mitchum jumped on a freight train and headed for Hollywood — and stardom. He has been married to the same woman, the former Dorothy Spence, for 50 years and they have three children.

Asked if he has any favourite roles, Mitchum pauses.

"I was asked to play Admiral Halsey in a picture called Midway," he said. "I asked the producer how long the role would last. He said: 'It's one day in bed.' I said: 'You got it.'

"I was without a home and

broke. As far as they were concerned I was a dangerous and suspicious character with no visible means of support. I was in Chatham County, Georgia."

"I left home because there was no room at the table. I didn't make a head count. I just took off because there wasn't enough to go round. I felt I might alleviate the situation if I made myself scarce."

"I think it cost them 38 cents a day to feed and house you at the time and they rented you out for \$2 and 50 cents a day. That was the answer then to the homeless."

Mitchum also lets on that one of the things he likes about appearing in "regular joe" is that he will not have to wear makeup.

"I don't think I've worn makeup in 99 per cent of my film appearances," he said. "As long as they don't have to put a star on me or turn my hair green I don't wear makeup."

Mitchum has earned the reputation — despite his repeated denials — of being one of the best actors in Hollywood, becomes more animated when he is asked how he prepared himself for his role as a homeless person.

"I think it cost them 38 cents a day to feed and house you at the time and they rented you out for \$2 and 50 cents a day. That was the answer then to the homeless."

Mitchum jumped on a freight train and headed for Hollywood — and stardom. He has been married to the same woman, the former Dorothy Spence, for 50 years and they have three children.

Asked if he has any favourite roles, Mitchum pauses.

"I was asked to play Admiral Halsey in a picture called Midway," he said. "I asked the producer how long the role would last. He said: 'It's one day in bed.' I said: 'You got it.'

"I was without a home and

broke. As far as they were concerned I was a dangerous and suspicious character with no visible means of support. I was in Chatham County, Georgia."

"I left home because there was no room at the table. I didn't make a head count. I just took off because there wasn't enough to go round. I felt I might alleviate the situation if I made myself scarce."

"I think it cost them 38 cents a day to feed and house you at the time and they rented you out for \$2 and 50 cents a day. That was the answer then to the homeless."

Mitchum also lets on that one of the things he likes about appearing in "regular joe" is that he will not have to wear makeup.

"I don't think I've worn makeup in 99 per cent of my film appearances," he said. "As long as they don't have to put a star on me or turn my hair green I don't wear makeup."

Mitchum has earned the reputation — despite his repeated denials — of being one of the best actors in Hollywood, becomes more animated when he is asked how he prepared himself for his role as a homeless person.

"



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Italian community vs. Arab Insurance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Life & Accident Insurance Co. soccer team will meet the Italian community soccer team in a friendly soccer match to be played at the University of Jordan stadium in Amman Friday March 2 at 2:30 p.m. This event is sponsored by the ALITALIA (Italian airlines) who provided the Italian team with their outfit flown specially from Rome. The game is arranged jointly by the Italian embassy and Arab Life & Accident Insurance Co., where the employees, their families and all their friends are expected to turn up and support their team.

### Egypt pulls out of African cup

ALGIERS (R) — An Egyptian soccer official said Tuesday that Egypt was pulling out of the African Nations Cup tournament which opens in Algeria Friday, the official Algerian news agency APS reported. It quoted the chairman of Egypt's youth and sports council, who is heading a delegation that arrived in Algiers Tuesday, as saying the decision had nothing to do with the organization of the competition. APS gave no other explanation and did not identify the official by name.

### Winds, rain force cancellation of events

LONDON (AP) — Rain, high winds and flooding caused havoc with British sports schedules Tuesday, knocking out soccer matches and all three horse-race cards. The English Football League match between first-division rivals Liverpool and Derby was called off when police said wind gusts up to 80 miles per hour made it too dangerous to stage the game at Liverpool's Anfield Stadium. An FA Cup rematch between West Ham and Oldham in northern England, scheduled for Wednesday night, was postponed until March 10 after winds knocked down a 40-yard section of perimeter fence at Oldham's Boundary Park. Other matches in lower divisions were postponed throughout England and Scotland because of the storms, which started Monday and were not expected to let up until late in the week. Racing was cancelled at Steeplechase meetings in Nottingham, Southwell and Plumpton, and officials at Leopardstown said Wednesday's card was endangered because of a forecast of high winds.

### Atletico sacks coach

MADRID (R) — Atletico Madrid sacked coach Javier Clemente Tuesday after a weekend defeat by Osasuna left them eight points behind Spanish first division leaders Real Madrid. "Atletico cannot be satisfied with being second," club president Jesus Gil Y Gil told a news conference. "Clemente and I are no longer friends." "I would have liked to end the season and win all 11 games left," said Clemente, who has been in charge since the beginning of the season. "But some in the club may not like that." Gil Y Gil said he had not yet decided on a replacement for Clemente.

### Welsh to double drug testing funds

CARDIFF, Wales (AP) — Welsh sports officials, stung when two of their athletes were found using drugs at the Commonwealth Games, said Tuesday they would begin out-of-competition testing and double anti-drug spending. The sports council for Wales and weightlifting and other sports considered to be high-risk for drugs would be targeted. Spending for the programme could be increased to £60,000 (\$102,000) a year. Two Welsh weightlifters, Ricky Chaplin and Gareth Hives, flunked drug tests at the games in Auckland, New Zealand, last month. The council said it wanted to "completely stamp out drug abuse in sport in the principality." Welsh athletes generally compete internationally as part of British teams.

### Mancini ousted from tournament

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Sweden's unseeded Thomas Hogstedt ousted second-seed Alberto Mancini of Argentina 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 Tuesday in the \$475,000 ABN tennis tournament. In other matches Tuesday, number seven seed Jonas B. Svensson of Sweden defeated Dutchman Tom Nijssen 6-4, 6-2; and American Brad Gilbert defeated Andrei Cherkasov of the Soviet Union 7-5, 4-6, 6-4. Karel Novacek of Czechoslovakia beat Per Nyborg of Sweden 7-6, 7-6; Uruguay's Nicolas Pereira beat Mark Koevers of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-2; and West Germany's Carl-Uwe Steeb defeated Christian Pionte of France 6-4, 6-4.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
1989 Trieste Media Services Inc.

#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K2 AK2 AQJ983 ♦K83  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 1+ Pass  
What do you bid now?  
  
Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦Q104 1073 KQ876 ♦K5  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1+ Pass 1+ Pass  
1 NT Pass ?  
What do you bid now?  
  
Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K943 AKJ J109 ♦K843  
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K72 AK2 AQJ983 ♦K83  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1 Pass 1+ Pass  
What is your opening bid?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦J7 ♦KQJ763 ♦K108 ♦Q3  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1+ Pass 1+ Pass  
1 NT Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦AK6 ♦J10 ♦K93 ♦K9643  
The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East  
1+ Pass 1+ Pass  
2+ Pass 2+ Pass  
What do you bid now?



Ivan Lendl

## Lendl returns home ending six years of absence

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP)

— A celebrity-studded audience watched Ivan Lendl defeat Miloslav Mečir 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 Tuesday in a benefit match for civic forum, an opposition group that arrived in November's anti-communist revolution.

Václav Havel, Czechoslovakia's playright-turned president, sat next to Alexander Dubcek, the new president of parliament who had been disgraced by the former communist government for trying to institute reforms in 1989.

The two, along with Premier Marian Čalfa, applauded Lendl's crushing forehand groundstrokes and Mečir's unpredictable passing shots.

Lendl's appearance ended six years of absence in his country. Communist authorities had driven him out in 1982 by dictating his tour schedule and imposing unrealistic demands for Davis Cup appearances.

Before the match, Lendl told reporters he wanted to compete for the United States in the 1992

Olympics. "I should become a U.S. citizen in April 1992, still in time for Olympic nomination, and I'd like to play very much. It should be a dream for every athlete," Lendl said.

He also dashed Czechoslovak hopes of playing for his home country against the United States in the forthcoming Davis Cup tie March 30.

Stating that he spent less than two weeks in Czechoslovakia over the last 10 years, Lendl said "it's not right to play against a country whose citizenship I should get in two years."

About his battles with Czechoslovak tennis officials, Lendl said: "I was never a fan of the old system and on top of that I was largely misled by the authorities. I felt cheated."

Czechoslovak and American flags adorned the sports hall in downtown Prague, packed with 16,000 spectators who paid 120 crowns (\$12) — the equivalent of 5 per cent of an average Czechoslovak monthly salary — to watch Lendl.

In first-round matches Tuesday, ninth-seeded Gigi Fernandez beat Jana Pospisilova of Czechoslovakia, 6-1, 6-3;

## Navratilova remains unbeaten

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP)

— Top-seeded Martina Navratilova remained unbeaten in 1990 by overpowering Nicole Provis of Australia 6-2, 6-0 Tuesday in a second-round match of the \$350,000 Virginia Slims of Indian Wells tournament.

Both scores were in the second half, with Kuwait tipping the ball into its own net for the Iraqi point.

Expectations for the match ran high, but it only picked up tempo in the second half after Kuwait pulled ahead 1-0 lead in the 48th minute.

Midfielder Wayil Suleiman headed home a cross by Mayed Hadad to send about 15,000 Kuwait supporters into a frenzy.

Some three to four thousand Iraqi fans, many who flew or drove into Kuwait for the occasion, chanted with equal fervor after Kuwaiti defender Adil Othman scored against Kuwait in the 69th minute.

Iraq is holding the Gulf Cup title for the third time and Kuwait has captured it six times in the past.

Iraqi coach Anwar Hisham brought in Natiq Hasina in the midfield in the 53rd minute, which gave the three-time Gulf Cup champions an upper hand.

Earlier, the Kuwaitis dominated because of their better linkage. The Iraqi coach said that the game was the best so far in the tournament. "Natiq changed the trend in our favour," the Iraqi coach said.

Kuwait's Brazilian coach Luis Felipe also praised the standard of the game. "I didn't ask my boys to go on the defence after the goal," he said. "It was players' decision and taken following the situation on the pitch."

The 10th Gulf Cup championship opened Feb. 20 and continues to March 9. The event is held every two years, with competing teams from the seven

Arab countries of the Gulf — the UAE, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia pulled out this year to protest the emblem, featuring two historical horses who helped repulse a Saudi attack on Kuwait in the 1920s.

The matches are classified as exhibition play by the International Football Association (FIFA), but the Gulf Cup is a prestigious event for the participants with soccer the most favored sport in the region.

The participation of the IAF as a contender for the 24-nation World Cup finals in June, has created no ripples. The IAF were brought to a draw in last year's tournament by both Iran and Qatar.

Kuwait now leads with four points, but second placed Iraq have played one game less. On Thursday, Bahrain took 1-0 over Oman.

## Favourites Kuwait, Iraq draw

KUWAIT (AP) — Favourites Kuwait and Iraq drew 1-1 Wednesday before a near capacity crowd at Peace and Friendship Stadium in the 10th Gulf Cup soccer championship.

Both scores were in the second half, with Kuwait tipping the ball into its own net for the Iraqi point.

Expectations for the match ran high, but it only picked up tempo in the second half after Kuwait pulled ahead 1-0 lead in the 48th minute.

Midfielder Wayil Suleiman headed home a cross by Mayed Hadad to send about 15,000

Kuwait supporters into a frenzy.

Some three to four thousand

Iraqi fans, many who flew or drove into Kuwait for the occasion, chanted with equal fervor after Kuwaiti defender Adil Othman scored against Kuwait in the 69th minute.

Iraq is holding the Gulf Cup

## Chang knocked out in 2nd round

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Glenn Layendecker proved too powerful for Michael Chang Tuesday night, spoiling the French Open champion's return to singles competition with a 6-4, 6-4 victory in the second round of the Volvo Indoor tennis tournament.

Chang, who has been sidelined for the past nine weeks because of a hip injury, started strongly, but his game became erratic midway through the opening set.

"I thought my ground strokes just weren't as penetrating as they usually are," said Chang.

"The mental part (of my game) was missing a little bit. I think by being out so long, the mental part just wasn't there," said Chang, ranked number seven in the world and the number two seed at Memphis.

Chang, who has been sidelined for the past nine weeks because of a hip injury, started strongly, but his game became erratic midway through the opening set.

Johansson got his share of the applause Monday night, a sharp departure from his Olympic experience in 1952, when he was booted out from the ring by a hostile crowd after being disqualified for passivity in the heavyweight final against Ed Sanders of the United States.

Looking at that match today, Johansson's style wasn't much different from that of Muhammad Ali — shuffle away and wait for a chance to counterpunch.

Much later, and thanks to a Finnish initiative, Johansson got his Olympic silver medal. On Monday night, he got the

opportunity to gain control as he squandered five break points before Layendecker, unseeded and ranked 77th, held serve.

Chang was broken himself in the fifth game as Layendecker hit a backhand winner at the net and then let two break points slip



Michael Chang

away in the sixth game. Layendecker held his serve, two unforced errors on Chang.

Layendecker broke Chang in the ninth game with a strong forehand from his own baseline.

In the 10th game, Chang's forehand from the baseline hit the net at match point and then fell wide.

"I served well tonight and have been close to breaking through (for a major win)," Layendecker said. "Things finally fell my way."

## FURNISHED VILLA FOR RENT

Reasonably priced, fully furnished, completely independent, nice and quiet location, CH, TV, video, telephone, garage, garden. 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, salon, 3 bathrooms.

Please call 662469 or 845272, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

MANY VILLAS AND APARTMENTS FOR RENT & SALE  
Furnished or Unfurnished  
In Shmeisani, Sweifieh, Abdoun and many other locations.  
For more information please call Abdoun Real Estate PREVIOUSLY Wael Real Estate Tel: 62342, 62397

## Patterson back to scene of Olympic triumph

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — A storm of applause and appreciation swept down from the terraces, almost as it happened nearly 38 years ago when a 17-year-old quicksilver boxer named Floyd Patterson was the centre of attention in the old Exhibition Hall in Helsinki.

Very convincingly, by a knock-out in the first round, the youngster from New York won the Olympic middleweight gold medal.

From there, he went onto a lucrative professional career, reaching the pinnacle in 1956 when he won the world heavyweight title.

Boxing events are now held in a smaller annex, mainly used as a basketball arena. Patterson and Ingemar Johansson of Sweden, opponents in three memorable heavyweight title fights from 1959

to 1961, were honorary guests at the Finnish boxing championship finals Monday night.

Johansson got his share of the applause Monday night, a sharp departure from his Olympic experience in 1952, when he was booted out from the ring by a hostile crowd after being disqualified for passivity in the heavyweight final against Ed Sanders of the United States.

Looking at that match today, Johansson's style wasn't much different from that of Muhammad Ali — shuffle away and wait for a chance to counterpunch.

Much later, and thanks to a Finnish initiative, Johansson got his Olympic silver medal. On Monday night, he got the

opportunity to gain control as he squandered five break points before Layendecker, unseeded and ranked 77th, held serve.

Chang was broken himself in the fifth game as Layendecker hit a backhand winner at the net and then let two break points slip

## FURNISHED DELUXE FLAT FOR RENT

Three bedrooms, salon, dining and sitting rooms. 250 sq.m. Central heating, telephone and full electric sets. Location 5th Circle.

Please call 679090

DELUXE APARTMENT FOR RENT

Fully furnished 4-bedroom apartment, first floor in a small building. 360 square metres, 4 bathrooms, 4 balconies, built-in Alno kitchen, laundry room, spacious salon, Scandinavian and European style furniture. Independent utilities (W & E & CH), independent telephone line, private garage.

Location: best area on the border between Sweifieh and Abdoun.

For more information please call 817960.

FOOD WASTE DISPOSER

WASHERS + DRIERS

NO-FROST REFRIGERATORS

UP-RIGHT FREEZERS

CHEST FREEZERS

GAS COOKERS

Mouasher Bros Co. Phones 622349 - 629623 - 821683 AMMAN, JORDAN

kelvinator

A Tradition of Excellence in Home Appliances

Duty Free Availability

THE MILL

Jabal Amman - next to THE MILL

between 5th & 6th circ.

Tel: 627850</

# World News

## Chamorro, Ortega urge Sandinistas to disband

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President-Elect Violeta Chamorro has called on the U.S.-backed contra rebels to disband and return home, hours after defeated President Daniel Ortega made their demobilisation a condition for a peaceful transfer of power.

"The causes of the civil war in Nicaragua have disappeared," Chamorro declared Tuesday night in a radio address.

"There is no reason for more war. Therefore, those who took up arms must put down their guns and return peacefully to Nicaragua ... to work for the reconstruction of our fatherland," she said.

Chamorro said the rebels, thousands of whom are camped out in Honduras, must respect the terms of a Central American peace agreement signed by Ortega and four other presidents.

Announcing that the president of Nicaragua's Supreme Electoral Council had formally named her president-elect Tuesday, Chamorro said the Sandinista Party would be able to play a major role in the political life of Nicaragua after handing over power.

"I want to ... reaffirm my pledge to respect the will of the majority of 40 per cent of our people which voted for the Sandinista National Liberation Front," she said. "I wish to be president of all Nicaraguans."

In general elections Sunday, Chamorro won 55.2 per cent against Ortega's 40.8.

Earlier in the day, in a speech diplomats described as carefully balanced to satisfy party militants without going back on his promise to respect the vote, Ortega warned his conservative successor not to roll back a decade of

leftwing reforms or dismantle the Sandinista army.

After a crucial meeting Tuesday between the policy-making Sandinista Directorate and 1,500 key party officials, Ortega declared his defeated party was ready to play by democratic rules and work for peace and stability in Nicaragua.

"We will govern from below," he said, referring to the Sandinistas' impending role as an opposition party.

He made the disbanding of the contra army a condition for a transition of government on April 25, the date on which the Sandinistas are due to hand over power under the constitution.

"The Sandinista National Liberation Front demands the immediate demobilisation ... of the counter-revolution so that there can be a peaceful and orderly transition of government," Ortega told 10,000 cheering supporters.

The insurgents should have disbanded by Dec. 5 under the terms of the Central American peace accord. But they ignored the deadline and one of their top commanders said Monday they would keep their weapons until the Sandinistas handed over power.

Ortega said the impending handover "does not in any way mean the end of the (Sandinista) revolution."

Ortega said land reform and

the nationalisation of foreign trade, Nicaragua's banks and its natural resources were "irreversible and fundamental achievements" of 11 years of leftwing government here.

After toppling U.S.-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, the Sandinistas broke up large landholdings. Over the past decade, more than 140,000 peasant families were given title to plots.

The banking system and foreign commerce were also nationalised in 1979, when the Sandinistas began building up a public sector. Foreign economists describe it as bloated and inefficient. Ortega said the Sandinistas would make sure no public sector employee would lose his job as a result of the government transition.

And he warned his successors not to try to dismantle the army, police and social security system.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front will defend the professionalism and integrity of the popular Sandinista army and the Ministry of Interior within the framework of the political constitution," he said.

In Washington, a top State Department official said Tuesday that a key element in the free and fair elections in Nicaragua was the Soviet Union's cooperation with the United States in the Central American peace process.

"We believe that the Soviet Union played a constructive role in encouraging the Sandinista government to hold these elections," the official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said close U.S.-Soviet cooperation in Central America over the last year was unprecedented in the history of both parties.

Key congressional leaders offered similar vows of economic aid to bolster Chamorro's incoming government.

"We do have an obligation to see democracy work there," Senator Alan Cranston, the second-highest ranking Democrat in the Senate, told reporters Tuesday after a White House meeting between the Republican President and congressional leaders of both parties.

PATNA, India (R) — At least 100 people were killed in a wave of election violence across Bihar, reports from around the volatile north Indian state said Wednesday.

The state government in the capital Patna said it could confirm only 38 deaths in Tuesday's elections to the state assembly but that the toll would rise with official reports still awaited from many areas.

Journalists and politicians around the state said 100 were killed, most in violence between rival party supporters fighting for control of polling booths.

There was scattered violence in some of the other seven states that voted for their assemblies Tuesday, but nothing on the scale of that in Bihar.

The government had flooded the state with thousands of extra security men to prevent a repetition of the violence in the general elections, the nation's bloodiest in which over 100 people were killed.

Most political analysts and an opinion poll predicted embarrassing defeats in all eight states for Congress, which was routed in November in the Hindi-speaking north that dominates Indian politics.

The one state where analysts thought Congress might do better is the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which won 88 parliamentary seats in November, up from just two, and is crucial to Singh's survival.

It supports his government from outside, along with ideological enemies from Marxist parties, despite profound policy differences with the trenchantly secular Singh.

Very early trends showed the BJP leading in the Hindi-speaking states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and Singh's Janata Dal ahead in Orissa in the east and Gujarat in the west.

Only in the small southern territory of Pondicherry was Congress in front.

NEWPORT BEACH, California (AP) — It is not every day that a bank tosses \$42,500 into the trash

— even in this trendy community.

"We're sort of embarrassed," Great American Bank spokesman Brian Luscombe said, a day after the windfall was recovered from a municipal trash truck that had hauled it away. "It was an accident and we're really not commenting much beyond that," said Luscombe, who added that a bank employee whose name was not released put the money in the wrong container.

When the garbage truck got to the dump, officials there had been warned about the missing cash, and they had the driver take his load to a city yard instead. The garbage was dumped there and municipal employees dug through the trash until they found the cash. The city's trash collectors must try to track down the owners of expensive items but can keep lesser ones, said General Services Director David Niederhaus.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Contestants in Israel's national beauty pageant were in tears Tuesday

after a daily newspaper named a winner allegedly picked by the judges ahead of the final event.

The Hadashot newspaper wrote that the 11-judge panel had chosen 18-year-old Ivanna Kruglik, a Soviet immigrant, as Israel's new beauty queen after interviewing the 20 candidates Saturday. The pageant is sponsored by the mass circulation newspaper Yedioth Ahronot, one of Hadashot's competitors.

Pageant organiser Racheli Givon denied the Hadashot story, saying that the judges only after final evening gown and bathing suit competitions Tuesday night in Tel Aviv.

## Prague moves in charge of fate

PRAGUE (R) — With Soviet troops on their way home, Czechoslovakia has greater control over its own destiny than for more than 50 years, President Vaclav Havel said Wednesday.

"We are today a country that is truly sovereign, independent and respected and need not be afraid of any immediate threat," Havel told a news conference.

Havel returned Tuesday from Moscow where an agreement was signed for the 73,500 Soviet soldiers in Czechoslovakia since the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion to pull out.

The withdrawal began Monday and will last until next year.

"Since Menich, we have not been as sovereign as we are now," Havel said, adding as a qualification that there were a "number of links from the past that can't be broken off."

In September 1938, Czechoslovakia was forced at the four-

power Munich conference between Britain, France, Germany and Italy to hand over territory claimed by Nazi Germany. Hitler nonetheless invaded Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939 and rode in triumph through Prague.

Havel, whose first trip abroad as president last month included a symbolic visit to Munich, will meet West German President Richard von Weizsaecker in Prague on the 51st anniversary of the invasion.

"I invented this date myself because it seemed very appropriate. I like symbols in politics," Havel said.

"Hitler came here as a messenger of war and violence and brought horrors for the whole world... Mr. von Weizsaecker is a man of peace, a philosopher, a scholar."

Havel said the West German president's visit "should be the end of all we have experienced in the past, the signal that we are beginning to live with this important neighbour of ours in entirely new relations."

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Space shuttle launched after delays

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — After five postponements due to bad weather, illness and a computer problem, the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis finally thundered into space on a secret mission Wednesday with a crew of five military officers. The shuttle, reported to be carrying a spy satellite that would help check Soviet compliance with arms control treaties, took off at 2:50 a.m. (0750 GMT). "It looked good," said U.S. Air Force spokesman Captain Marty Hauser after the launch, the fourth night liftoff in 34 shuttle flights. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Defense Department planned to impose a news blackout on the mission until about one hour before it is scheduled to land. Previous military missions have lasted about four days. Launch officials expressed relief at the successful launch after the delays which cost NASA about \$3 million.

### Exxon indicted over Alaska oil spill

WASHINGTON (R) — A federal grand jury in Alaska indicted Exxon Corp and its shipping subsidiary on five criminal charges in connection with last year's Alaskan oil spill, the worst in U.S. history. The indictment, announced in Washington by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, means Exxon could face fines of at least \$640 million if convicted on all charges. The indictment was returned after lengthy negotiations between the Justice Department and the oil giant over possible plea bargain collapsed. The super tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on a reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound on March 24, 1989, spilling 11 million gallons (42 million litres) of oil. Exxon has already spent more than \$2 billion to clean up the spill that destroyed some 1,600 kilometres of coastline and killed thousands of animals.

### U.S., EC pledge closer ties

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and the European Community, confronted by an earthquake of change in Eastern Europe, have agreed to build up a much closer political relationship with twice-yearly summits. President George Bush, clearly eager to maintain U.S. influence in a fast-changing Europe, signalled a new era in Washington's dealings with the 12-nation Community after talks with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey. "The United States will remain a European power," Bush said after pledging to stage twice-yearly summits with the European leader currently heading the 12-nation Community. The post rotates every six months. Ireland is the present EC president and Haughey said after his turning-point talks with Bush: "We are building a broader bridge across the Atlantic." The two also agreed Tuesday that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would stage talks every six months with the 12 EC foreign ministers.

One French newspaper called Japan "a political dwarf".

Kaifu Wednesday denied that re-election guaranteed absolution for legislators implicated in wrongdoing.

"We have to retain the trust of the people, so we must continue with political reform," he told a news conference.

Having failed to defeat the LDP this month in a lacklustre, divided campaign, the opposition parties Wednesday unanimously poured scorn on Kaifu's second cabinet line-up.



## Cambodian rebels claim capture of 10 Vietnamese soldiers

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas said Wednesday they had captured 10 Vietnamese soldiers, saying this proved Hanoi was still directly involved in the Cambodian war.

A Khmer Rouge statement said they were used as reinforcements or "served as backbones of various units" of the Phnom Penh government.

It said nearly 20,000 Vietnamese troops returned to Cambodia in the three months following the pull-out and 1,200 more entered in February.

The man who identified himself as Major Nguyen Young Tan, the officer who left Cambodia in a Vietnamese pull-out last September and was sent back three months later.

Hanoi had hoped the withdrawal — still to be independently verified — would help end years of isolation from the West.

The United States and many other governments said Vietnam illegally occupied Cambodia after invading in December 1978 to oust the fanatical Khmer Rouge regime.

Western diplomats in Bangkok said they suspected Vietnamese involvement in the latest fighting but had no confirmation.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, speaking to an international peace conference under way this week in Jakarta, said the Vietnamese withdrawal had removed a major stumbling block to a settlement to the 11-year-old war.

The Khmer Rouge and their allies, accusing Vietnam of colonising its traditional enemy, said Vietnamese interference was preventing progress.

## 100 die in Indian election violence

PATNA, India (R) — At least 100 people were killed in a wave of election violence across Bihar, reports from around the volatile north Indian state said Wednesday.

The state government in the capital Patna said it could confirm only 38 deaths in Tuesday's elections to the state assembly but that the toll would rise with official reports still awaited from many areas.

Journalists and politicians around the state said 100 were killed, most in violence between rival party supporters fighting for control of polling booths.

There was scattered violence in some of the other seven states that voted for their assemblies Tuesday, but nothing on the scale of that in Bihar.

The government had flooded the state with thousands of extra security men to prevent a repetition of the violence in the general elections, the nation's bloodiest in which over 100 people were killed.

Most political analysts and an opinion poll predicted embarrassing defeats in all eight states for Congress, which was routed in November in the Hindi-speaking north that dominates Indian politics.

The big winner was expected to be the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which won 88 parliamentary seats in November, up from just two, and is crucial to Singh's survival.

It supports his government from outside, along with ideological enemies from Marxist parties, despite profound policy differences with the trenchantly secular Singh.

Very early trends showed the BJP leading in the Hindi-speaking states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and Singh's Janata Dal ahead in Orissa in the east and Gujarat in the west.

Only in the small southern territory of Pondicherry was Congress in front.

## Lithuanians seek to stall Moscow

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Separatists in Soviet Lithuania aim to head off a possible Moscow veto on independence by convening a meeting of their new parliament first.

A second round of voting in elections originally set for March 10 has been brought forward by a week in 20 districts, the vice-chairman of the electoral commission, Vaclavas Litvinas, said Wednesday.

This enables parliament to meet next week in advance of a session of the Soviet Union's supreme legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, which is expected to give President Mikhail Gorbachev new powers that could be used to block moves to independence.

A second round of voting in elections originally set for March 10 has been brought forward by a week in 20 districts, the vice-chairman of the electoral commission, Vaclavas Litvinas, said Wednesday.

In the first multi-party poll in Soviet history last Saturday, candidates backed by the pro-independence Sajudis movement swept the board in the first round of elections to the Lithuanian parliament.

But in 51 districts no single

candidate won an outright majority, forcing a revote. Parliament can be convened only after two-thirds of all deputies are elected.

Aliginants Cekulius, a Sajudis deputy, said: "The congress will confirm Gorbachev as president when it meets on March 12, giving him new powers including the power to declare a state of emergency."

Cekulius predicted parliament would meet a few days after the second round.

### Land bill approved

The Soviet legislature on Wednesday approved a landmark bill that would allow citizens to acquire land and bequeath it to their heirs for the first time since peasants were stripped of inheritance.

In the first multi-party poll in Soviet history last Saturday, candidates backed by the pro-independence Sajudis movement swept the board in the first round of elections to the Lithuanian parliament.

But the law stops short of legalising full private ownership of property by strictly forbidding the sale of land. Under the new

law, plots only can be leased and lease prices will be set by the state.

The measure is one of a package designed to give force of law to the economic and social reforms championed by Gorbachev.

Soviet ownership of land, enshrined in the Soviet constitution,

has been a cornerstone of Soviet communism since the 1917 revolution.

But Soviet reformists and economists have called repeatedly for allowing private ownership as a way of spurting economic growth in the troubled country.

By altering the constitution and allowing peasants working on collective or state farms to acquire

plots and turn it into their own

hereditary property, the Kremlin leadership hopes to raise farm productivity, which is notoriously low on collective and state-owned farms.

But the law stops short of legalising full private ownership of property by strictly forbidding the sale of land. Under the new

law, plots only can be leased and lease prices will be set by the state.

The measure is one of a package designed to give force of law to the economic and social reforms championed by Gorbachev.